

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7067
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, DA
SUBJECT: DENMARK ALTERS ITS COASTAL BASELINES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BY CIRCULAR NOTE DATED AUGUST 21, 1978, THE DANISH
GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
ACCREDITED TO DENMARK A REVISION OF ITS SYSTEM OF
STRAIGHT BASELINES IN THE KATTEGAT OFF THE COASTS OF
NORTH JUTLAND AND NORTH ZEALAND. FULL TEXT OF MFA
R.III FILE NO. 55 DAN.1 A APPEARS BELOW. SEPTTEL
PROVIDES TEXT OF MFA'S ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE
ROYAL DECREE WHICH STATES NEW BASELINE COORDINATES
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(ORIGINAL OF NOTE, AN ENCLOSED MAP AND THE PROCLAMATION
BEING AIRPOUCHED TO DEPT. EUR/NE END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. CHIEF OF MFA'S SECTION CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS (TORBIN FROST) TOLD US THAT AMONG THE

CONSIDERATIONS LEADING TO THE REVISED BASELINES WAS UNHAPPINESS OVER EAST EUROPEAN - CHIEFLY GDR AND POLISH -- NAVAL CIRCLING OF ZEALAND. WHILE THESE VESSELS HAD LEGAL RIGHT TO PASS THROUGH THE VARIOUS DANISH STRAITS THEIR PRACTICE OF RETURNING VIA ANOTHER, LESS DIRECT STRAIT "WAS NOT CONSIDERED INOFFENSIVE." WHILE THE REVISED BASELINES, ACCORDING TO FROST, WOULD NOT RESTRICT THEIR RIGHT OF PASSAGE, IT WOULD REQUIRE OF THEM NOTIFICATIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY NECESSARY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"WITH REFERENCE TO ITS CIRCULAR NOTE OF DECEMBER 23, 1966 REGARDING THE ROYAL DECREES OF DECEMBER 21, 1966 ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE DANISH TERRITORIAL SEA, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS THE HONOUR TO ENCLOSE FOR THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION A COPY OF A ROYAL DECREE OF APRIL 19, 1978 ON THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER TOGETHER WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION THEREOF.

"BY THE NEW ROYAL DECREES THE SYSTEM OF STRAIGHT BASELINES ALONG THE DANISH COASTS HAS BEEN SUPPLEMENTED AS OF MAY 1, 1978 OFF THE COASTS OF NORTH JUTLAND AND NORTH SEALAND BY STRAIGHT BASELINES IN THE KATTEGAT. THE NEW STRAIGHT BASELINES ARE INDICATED ON THE ATTACHED MAP.

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"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS FURTHER THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW A RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE EXISTS IN THE WATERS WHICH BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW BASELINES HAVE BECOME INTERNAL WATERS OR TERRITORIAL SEA. SUBJECT TO ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, THIS RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE ALSO APPLIES TO FOREIGN WARSHIPS AND OTHER VESSELS OWNED OR USED BY A FOREIGN STATE AND NOT EMPLOYED EXCLUSIVELY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, CF. THE ORDINANCE OF FEBRUARY 27, 1976 GOVERNING THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGN WARSHIPS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO DANISH TERRITORY IN TIME OF PEACE.

"COPENHAGEN, AUGUST 21, 1978."

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